

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

A reference to Applicant's co-pending provisional application has been added following the title of the invention. The Declaration and Power of Attorney form used by Applicant's attorneys, prior to filing this application, included a claim for priority based on a provisional application. The absence of the claim for priority in the PTO Declaration was missed.

Paragraph [005] was amended to correct a typographical error on line 1.

Paragraph [0016] has been amended to correct the spelling of -- plane --.

Applicant confirms the election of claims 1-7 and has therefore canceled, non-elected, claims 8-10. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application.

A fish has its spine removed by a fish knife such as the fish knife disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 2,142,197 to Lee. After the spine is removed, the fish is laid on a flat surface with the skin in contact with the flat surface and the meat attached to the skin extending upward from the skin. The filet is then ready to have the pin bones removed.

The pin bones are removed with the fish pin bone remover of this application without cutting the fish skin. Leaving the fish skin unsevered during pin bone removal leaves most of the eatable meat on the filet in one piece. If the skin was severed there would be multiple smaller pieces.

The angle  $\theta$  of the forward end tip surface 72 as shown in Figure 2, is positioned so that substantially the entire tip surface is in engagement with the flat surface that supports the fish skin. Grinding the cutting edge of the bridge on an outside surface creates a small bevel that holds the bridge cutting edge above the tip

surface 72. During pin bone removal, the tip surface 72 slides along the inside surface of the skin and the bridge cutting edge moves through the meat and just above the inside surface of the skin of a fish. Severing of the skin is thereby avoided.

Claim 1 as amended includes a cutting edge formed by grinding an outside surface of the bridge portion. Claim 1 also states that the cutting edge is continuous and without steps.

The fruit knife of Newman discloses a straight cutting edge 17 that is stepped up from the elongated cutting edges 15 and 16. An attempt to use the Newman Knife to remove pin bones would most likely result in the end corners of the cutting edges 15 and 16 cutting through the fish skin and forming multiple pieces of fish from on filet. Claim 1 clearly distinguishes over Newman and is therefore allowable.

Claims 2-5 are dependent upon claim 1 and are allowable together with claim 1 for reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 6 includes an arcuate cutting edge portion in a common plane with the left cutting edge portion and the right cutting edge portion. The cutting edge 17 of Newman is in a plane that is stepped upwards from a plane including the cutting edges 15 and 16. Claim 6 is therefore clearly patentable over Newman and is allowable.

Claim 7 is dependant upon claim 6 and is allowable together with claim 6 for reason set forth above. Please note that the tip surface 72 setforth in claim 7 is not a cutting edge as explained above.

Claims 8, 9 and 10 are non-elected claims and have been canceled.

New independent claim 11 includes an arcuate cutting edge left end that is in

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alignment with and joins a left cutting edge inner end. Claim 11 also includes an arcuate cutting edge right end that is in alignment with and joins a right cutting edge inner end. The inner ends of the left cutting edge and the right cutting edge are remote from the handle.

U.S. Patent No. 2,142,197 to Lee disclosed a fish knife with two blades 12. The ends of the blades 12, remote from the handle, are not connected by a bridge. Adjustable members 11 establish the depth of cut.

It has been noted that the patents to Newman and Lee were both cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed by Applicant.

In view of the above, this application as amended is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 12-0755.

Respectfully submitted,

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